

December 2009 Beautification Winner
Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Association
Cumberland Gardens Adopt a Spot
Doug Mann, Project Leader

As a retired employee of Pfizer, Doug Mann had an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 grant for a community volunteer project he would begin. This seed money provided the impetus for a new kind of Demonstration Garden for the Master Gardeners....one that would demonstrate and test new ornamental plants suitable for our climate. The Gardens were plotted out on paper in February, 2008, and perennial plants were suggested for 3 oval beds. Local plant sources as well as catalogs were used to order plants, and the work began that spring. The West Lafayette Parks and Recreation department was instrumental in identifying the location near the Farmers Market and basketball courts, and also in making deliveries of mulch. Volunteers removed the sod and added soil to raise the beds. Master Gardener Bill Dilling made the metallic sculptures. After planting, diagrams of the plants were posted on the triosk near the gazebo. Compliments started coming in from walkers as Master Gardeners worked on the beds. The group selected hundreds of spring blooming bulbs and these were planted in the fall of 2008. Two more beds were designed in 2009, and planted with trees and shrubs. A sixth bed, designed to feature a sign, was added this fall and will contain geometric designs of annuals. All the planting, weeding, watering and deadheading is done by Master Gardeners throughout the growing season. The City appreciates this colorful addition to a very well used park facility.

